

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-11

OMB-01 SAJ-01 NEA-11 AF-10 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 221659Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7879

INFO CINCEUR VAIHIGEN

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

COMSIXFLT

JUSMG MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 509

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ENRG, SP

SUBJ: PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF NAVY FUEL SUPPLIES WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER

REEF; (A) MADRID 7476 (B) MADRID 7680; (C) MADRID 22;
(D) MADRID 204

1. I AM SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA
ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 25 TO PAY MY RESPECTS AND TO DISCUSS
MATTER OF SPANISH RESTRICTIONS ON FUEL SUPPLIES TO US
NAVY SHIPS. I PLAN TO ASK FOR HIS REACTION TO MY LETTER
ON DEC 27 (REF B) AND HIS CONFIRMATION OF AND
COMMENTS ON THE SPANISH POLICY SPELLED OUT IN THE DEC 26
SPANISH PERMANENT SECRETARIAT NOTE (REF C).

2. UNLESS ARAB OIL SUPPLY PICTURE CHANGES SUDDENLY, I
MUST ASSUME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WILL REAFFIRM THAT GOS
FEELS COMPELLED TO RESTRICT FUEL SUPPLIES TO US NAVY SHIPS
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TO ENSURE CONTINUED SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM FROM ARAB

SOURCES. THEREFORE, WITH DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, I PROPOSE TO RESPOND WITH FOLLOWING POINTS;

(A) US, LIKE SPAIN, ALSO HAS A PROBLEM IN THAT THE SIXTHFLEET MUST HAVE READILY AVAILABLE AND REGULAR SUPPLIES OF FUEL IN WESTERN END OF MEDITERRANEAN FOR EFFECTIVE OPERATION. SPANISH WILLINGNESS TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUED USE OF FACILITIES AT CARTAGENA AND ROTA FOR REFUELING, WHICH ALREADY AUTHORIZED BY AFC AND WHICH STORE US-OWNED FUEL IN ANY EVENT, NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE. SIXTHFLEET SHIPS, IN MEETING OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, CANNOT ALWAYS BE ROUTED EASILY TO CARTAGENA OR ROTA AND, IF THEY ARE TO MAINTAIN HIGH STATE OF READINESS, MUST FILL UP WITH FUEL WHEN AND WHERE TIGHT SCHEDULES PERMIT.

(B) NORMAL US NAVY REFUELINGS IN SPANISH PORTS DO NOT REPRESENT A NET DRAIN ON SPANISH MARINE SUPPLIES. IN 1973 US NAVY PURCHASED ABOUT 80,000 BARRELS FROM SPANISH SOURCES. US NAVY, HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF GROWING SCARCITIES SUPPLIED TO SPANISH NAVY AT FERROL, ROTA AND CARTAGENA ABOUT 300,000 BARRELS OF MARINE FUELS, MOST OF WHICH CAME FROM SOURCES IN US OR FROM US-OWNED RESERVE STOCKS IN MEDITERRANEAN AND EAST ATLANTIC.

(C) IF GOS UNWILLING TO PERMIT SPANISH SUPPLIERS TO SUPPLY FUEL TO US NAVY SHIPS ON COMMERCIAL BASIS AS IN PAST, IT SHOULD HELP EASE EXISTING DRAIN ON US SOURCES BY REPLACING IN KIND US FUELS NOW DRAWN BY SPANISH NAVY FROM US DEPOTS AT EL FERROL, CARTAGENA AND ROTA.

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